



HARDWICK

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Hardwick, a rural industrial hill town in the highlands northwest of the Ware River corridor, lies on the western border of Worcester County. The town is part of a tract of land purchased from the Indians in 1686 by a group of settlers from Roxbury. The first European settlement occurred around 1730, and Hardwick became an agricultural community with grazing and orchards on well-watered lands. Seasonal work for residents came from lumbering, potash and charcoal making and mining of bog iron.

As industry grew and changed in Hardwick, the community developed into four distinct villages: Furnace, with saw, grist and fulling mills and furnaces; Gilbertville, with its textile company that built company housing and mill buildings; Wheelwright, which was essentially built to house and employ paper mill employees; and Hardwick Village. In 1832, the iron foundry at Furnace Village used 180 tons of ore and 36,000 bushels of charcoal from Hardwick's forests to produce hollow ware castings. Those not employed in agriculture or iron works staffed a tannery and made palm leaf hats. Jobs and prosperity brought growth to the town and over 2,200 people were recorded in the community by the 1870's, many of them Irish and French Canadian immigrants. By the beginning of the 20th century, there was a large Polish immigration and the total foreign born population reached 44% of the residents.

In the early 20th century, the Quabbin Reservoir depopulated the western upland areas of Hardwick and flooded some valleys. With a decline in industrial activity, Hardwick was left with a robust agricultural business involved in poultry raising, market gardening and dairying. Hardwick Center remains an unusually intact example of early 19th century highland meetinghouse village.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Central Massachusetts, bordered by Ware on the south, Quabbin Reservoir on the west, Petersham on the north, Barre on the northeast, and New Braintree on the east. Hardwick is about 30 miles north of Springfield, 34 miles west of Worcester, 69 miles west of Boston, and 160 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 40.84 sq. miles

Land Area: 38.59 sq. miles

Population: 2,385

Density: 62 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Barre Falls Dam Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.0°F

Normal temperature in July.....67.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.1"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Ware, Persham, Winsor Dam, Quabbin Reservoir

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 477-6197

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1739

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	1,395		
Democrats	541	38.8	%
Republicans	139	10.0	%
Other parties	2	0.1	%
Unenrolled Voters	713	51.1	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Hardwick town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	2,622	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	2,622	100.0
Male.....	1,277	48.7	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	23	0.9
Female.....	1,345	51.3	Mexican.....	2	0.1
Under 5 years.....	139	5.3	Puerto Rican.....	14	0.5
5 to 9 years.....	210	8.0	Cuban.....	2	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	232	8.8	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	5	0.2
15 to 19 years.....	226	8.6	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	2,599	99.1
20 to 24 years.....	109	4.2	White alone.....	2,547	97.1
25 to 34 years.....	284	10.8	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	467	17.8	Total population.....	2,622	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	363	13.8	In households.....	2,562	97.7
55 to 59 years.....	142	5.4	Householder.....	997	38.0
60 to 64 years.....	91	3.5	Spouse.....	562	21.4
65 to 74 years.....	169	6.4	Child.....	787	30.0
75 to 84 years.....	151	5.8	Own child under 18 years.....	648	24.7
85 years and over.....	39	1.5	Other relatives.....	86	3.3
Median age (years).....	37.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	30	1.1
18 years and over.....	1,888	72.0	Nonrelatives.....	130	5.0
Male.....	920	35.1	Unmarried partner.....	74	2.8
Female.....	968	36.9	In group quarters.....	60	2.3
21 years and over.....	1,794	68.4	Institutionalized population.....	7	0.3
62 years and over.....	414	15.8	Noninstitutionalized population.....	53	2.0
65 years and over.....	359	13.7	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	146	5.6	Total households.....	997	100.0
Female.....	213	8.1	Family households (families).....	690	69.2
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	348	34.9
One race.....	2,590	98.8	Married-couple family.....	562	56.4
White.....	2,564	97.8	With own children under 18 years.....	275	27.6
Black or African American.....	14	0.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	83	8.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	4	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	47	4.7
Asian.....	3	0.1	Nonfamily households.....	307	30.8
Asian Indian.....	1	-	Householder living alone.....	257	25.8
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	132	13.2
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	370	37.1
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	270	27.1
Korean.....	2	0.1	Average household size.....	2.57	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.08	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	1,086	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	997	91.8
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	89	8.2
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	32	2.9
Some other race.....	5	0.2	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	32	1.2	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	8.7	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	997	100.0
White.....	2,595	99.0	Owner-occupied housing units.....	681	68.3
Black or African American.....	20	0.8	Renter-occupied housing units.....	316	31.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	18	0.7	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.73	(X)
Asian.....	10	0.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.23	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	0.1			
Some other race.....	9	0.3			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0
Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0
Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester area, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 connects to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 32, which runs N-S across central Massachusetts just east of the Quabbin Reservoir.

Rail

The Massachusetts Central Railroad provides freight rail service in Hardwick. Contact number: (413) 283-2911

Bus

Hardwick is a member of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MRTA), which provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled through the Council on Aging.

Other

Metropolitan Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in neighboring Palmer, is easily accessible. It has a 2,475'x 55' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Hardwick Historical Society

On Hardwick Common

(413) 477-6635

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

Hilltop Rest Home

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.